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Altman AJ: Supportive care of children with cancer: current therapy and guidelines from the Children's Oncology Group, with a foreword by Gregory H. Reaman, 3rd edition

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In this book, the reader will find a series of guidelines which have been refined over the past two decades by investigators participating in Children's Oncology Group trials. The Children's Oncology Group was organised in 2000: it unifies the former Children's Cancer Group, the Pediatric Oncology Group, the National Wilms Tumor Group and the Intergroup Rhabdomyosarcoma Study Group. Many European groups participate in the rigorously organised and evaluated trials of the group. The guidelines on supportive care are written by paediatric oncologists working on the rapidly evolving front of cancer treatment and are meant to be taken as suggestions.

The 21 chapters mostly start from a clinical problem specific for cancer patients. In addition to diagnosis and treatment-related aspects, they also offer recommendations concerning psychosocial and palliative care, complementary and alternative medicine in paediatric oncology, and – not to be forgotten – on recognition,

prevention and remediation of burnout in paediatric oncology staff.

The chapters are well referenced and summarise highly specialised knowledge in a few pages. Whenever appropriate, it is clearly indicated whether the data available for the recommendations are based on experience in children or adults only. They contain many useful tables which are easy to read and facilitate quick orientation on a subject or, for instance on dose adjustment. The chapter on toxicity of drugs is a good example. Toxicity is treated organ by organ. A table summarises toxic effects by grading them as mild, moderate, severe, and unacceptable.

The authors of this book have collected very valuable, extensive and up-to-date information on the subjects treated: an ideal reference for all professionals involved in the multidisciplinary care of paediatric cancer patients.